(d) The financing terms of HUDCO are decided by the Government and the existing terms were fixed in December, 1985. If in certain areas of regions the cost per dwelling unit under a Rural Housing Scheme for landless labourers belonging to the E.W.S. exceeds Rs. 6,000, the scheme can be financed under the parallel scheme under which the ceiling cost per dwelling unit is Rs 10,000, as per the choice and affordability of the beneficiaries.

Foot and mouth diseases of animals

*453. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of cross-breeding, high yielding variety of cows, buffaloes and other domestic animals have become prone to Foot and Mouth Diseases for which the entire farmer community in the country lost more than Rs. 500 crores each year;

(b) whether experiments are being carried out to identify the virus causing Foot and Mouth Diseases and to develop better vaccine against those Diseases to suit the Indian conditions; and

(c) what other measures are being taken by Government to save the farmers from this loss?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The high-yielding cows, buffaloes and other domestic animals have not become prone to foot and mouth disease (FMD) because of cross-breeding as the disease was already prevalent in the country. However, the exotic and cross-bred cattle are more susceptible than the indigenous stock. The annual economic loss due to this disease as per one estimate is Rs. 510 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 50 per cent subsidised vaccine is arranged for the benefit of small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers for protecting their exotic cross-bred and highly valuable indigenous cattle buffaloes and sheep. Free mass vaccination is also arranged under Disease Free Zone Programme in four southern most districts of the country and as a FMD Pilot Project in 15 districts in and around Nilgiris.

Short-fall in the production of DMS milk

*454. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of the milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme has gone down at present;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the hardships of the people in Delhi due to inadequate supply of milk;

(d) what is the percentage of cut imposed on milk distribution and whether it is uniform in all the areas;

(e) what are the factors responsible for the fall in the production of milk; and

(f) what steps have been taken to improve the situation and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) The combined level of daily average supplies of milk by Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy, Delhi, during November, 1987 to February 1988, has been slightly more than what they supplied during the corresponding period of the previous year. No general cut as such has been imposed on the supplies of milk. However, due to the drought there has been general fall in the procurement of fresh milk. In order to maintain the existing level of supplies, procurement prices have been increased and suitable quantities of Skimmed Milk Powder and Butter Oil are being arranged for production of milk.